

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BREMEN 00066 271616Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGRE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MCT-01
A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /092 W
-----059130 271652Z /43

P 271530Z JAN 78

FM AMCONSUL BREMEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2509
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF PRIORITY
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HAMBURG PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY
AMCONSUL STUTTGART PRIORITY
USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
USAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY
USAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY
USCINCEUR STUTTGART PRIORITY

UNCLAS BREMEN 066

SECSTATE PASS COMMERCE, LABOR, AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB EWWT GW

SUBJECT: DOCKWORKERS STRIKE GERMAN NORTH SEA AND BALTIC PORTS

1. DOCKWORKERS' STRIKE IN GERMAN PORTS LISTED IN REFTL
IS IN ITS THIRD DAY. DESPITE VOTE BY CUXHAVEN UNION MEMBERS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BREMEN 00066 271616Z

TO STRIKE, UNION UP TO NOW HAS NOT ASKED ITS 15 CUXHAVEN
DOCKWORKERS TO JOIN STOPPAGE. OTHER GERMAN PORTS ARE NOT
SUBJECT TO WAGE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN OETV AND ZENTRALVERBAND
DER DEUTSCHEN SEEHAFENBETRIEBE (CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF
GERMAN SEA PORT OPERATORS) AND ARE NOT INVOLVED IN STRIKE.
ABOUT 100 SHIPS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN STRIKE WHILE IN PORTS
ON WESER AND ELBE RIVERS, AND AN UNIDENTIFIED NUMBER OF

SHIPS HAVE BEEN TURNED AWAY FROM THESE PORTS TO DISCHARGE THEIR CARGO IN OTHER EUROPEAN PORTS. PERISHABLE GOODS, HOWEVER, ARE BEING UNLOADED IN PORTS THAT HAVE BEEN STRUCK.

2. THE OETV STATED THAT THE STRIKE FUND IS ADEQUATE TO MAINTAIN STRIKE FOR ABOUT 150 DAYS. UNION'S PLEA FOR SOLIDARITY BY OTHER EUROPEAN DOCKWORKERS WAS, ACCORDING TO THE OETV, WAS HONORED BY BELGIAN, DUTCH AND FINNISH COLLEAGUES. LOCAL OETV CHAIRMAN WILHELM HUBRICH REPORTED NEW MEDIATION EFFORT BY HAMBURG MAYOR HANS-ULRICH KLOSE WAS TO HAVE BEGUN JANUARY 27 AROUND NOON. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO HUBRICH, JANUARY 30 WOULD BE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR STRIKE TO END BECAUSE OF THE TIME REQUIRED FOR A RANK AND FILE VOTE. AT PRESENT UNION SPOKESMEN ARE NOT WILLING TO SPECULATE HOW LONG THE STRIKE WILL LAST.

3. SPOKESMAN FOR ZENTRALVERBAND ON JANUARY 27 ALSO STATED THAT THE END OF THE STRIKE CANNOT BE PREDICTED. THERE ARE HOPES, HOWEVER, THAT THROUGH MEDIATION EFFORTS BY MAYOR KLOSE, STRIKE MAY BE TERMINATED DURING WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 30 (BREMEN MAYOR HANS KOSCHNICK, WHO IS VISITING NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA, IS NOT EXPECTED BACK BEFORE FEBRUARY 7.)

COMMENT: THE DOCKWORKERS' STRIKE IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL STRIKE IN THE GERMAN PORTS SINCE 1896. UP TO NOW THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BREMEN 00066 271616Z

RELIABILITY OF THE GERMAN PORTS MADE UP FOR THEIR UNFAVORABLE GEOGRAPHIC POSITION VIS-A-VIS OTHER EUROPEAN PORTS. THIS STRIKE MIGHT DAMAGE CONSIDERABLY THE COMPETITIVENESS OF BREMEN, BREMERHAVEN AND HAMBURG. THE OETV SEEMS PREPARED FOR A LONG DISPUTE. THE SMALL NUMBER OF WORKERS INVOLVED IN THE STRIKE DOES NOT BURDEN ITS STRIKE FUND SIGNIFICANTLY. AND SINCE THE PORTS ARE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO STRIKES, THE UNION PROBABLY CHOSE THEM IN ORDER TO GIVE MORE FORCE TO ITS DEMANDS. MOST SIGNIFICANT IS THAT HIGH WAGE INCREASES FOR THE DOCKWORKERS MIGHT INDEED SET A PRECEDENT FOR THE REMAINING LABOR NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. SCHIFFMAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORTS, LONGSHOREMEN, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BREMEN00066
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0161
Format: TEL
From: BREMEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780116/aaaaamxu.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c7b670df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3703846
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOCKWORKERS STRIKE GERMAN NORTH SEA AND BALTIC PORTS
TAGS: ELAB, EWWT, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7b670df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014